



Press Release

Press Release Announcement – March 3, 2003 – For Immediate Use
For the electronic press release, please visit www.nass.usda.gov/pa/

Pennsylvania's 2002 Honey Production Up 6 Percent

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania honey production in 2002 (from producers with five or more hives) totaled 1,026,000 pounds, up 6 percent from 2001, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). There were an estimated 18,000 colonies statewide, up 1,000 from last year. The average yield was 57 pounds per colony, the same as last year. Total stocks of honey, as of December 15, 2002, were 513,000 pounds, 1 percent less than the previous year.

Honey producers in Pennsylvania received an average price of 130 cents per pound for the 2002 crop. Total value of honey produced in 2002 is estimated at 1,334,000 dollars for Pennsylvania production. Pennsylvania ranks 25th in the nation for honey production.

A sample of honey producers were contacted in December 2002 for information on number of colonies, honey production, honey stocks on hand for sale, and prices received for honey sold during 2002.

Nationally, honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. The yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2002 to 128.6 cents, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.